

Warrant Officers

The past and the future of the Regiment

Signaleers,

The Signal Functional Area Assessment that has been approved by our Undersecretary of the Army will have a tremendous impact on the Regiment. Beginning in 2013, much of what you know about the Regiment will change. I have served through the introduction of Mobile Subscriber Equipment, Modularity, and Increment 1 of the Warfighter Information Network Tactical. While each of these initiatives had a huge effect on the Signal Corps, the changes we are about to experience as we implement the FAA will be even greater. The FAA will profoundly re-shape our doctrine, organization, training, leader development, and personnel.

Given the dramatic changes we are facing, I decided to dedicate this issue of *Army Communicator* to our warrant officers. I did this for two reasons. First, because our Signal warrants will play a central role as we implement the FAA, it is absolutely essential for us to understand where we are, and where we are going, with our Warrant Officer Corps. Second, as we enter this period of immense change, we should take heart in the history of our warrant officers – a corps that has always provided stability and continuity during times of change. Much is about to change, but as the Warrant Officer Corps shows us, much will remain the same ... just as it has for the past 800 years.

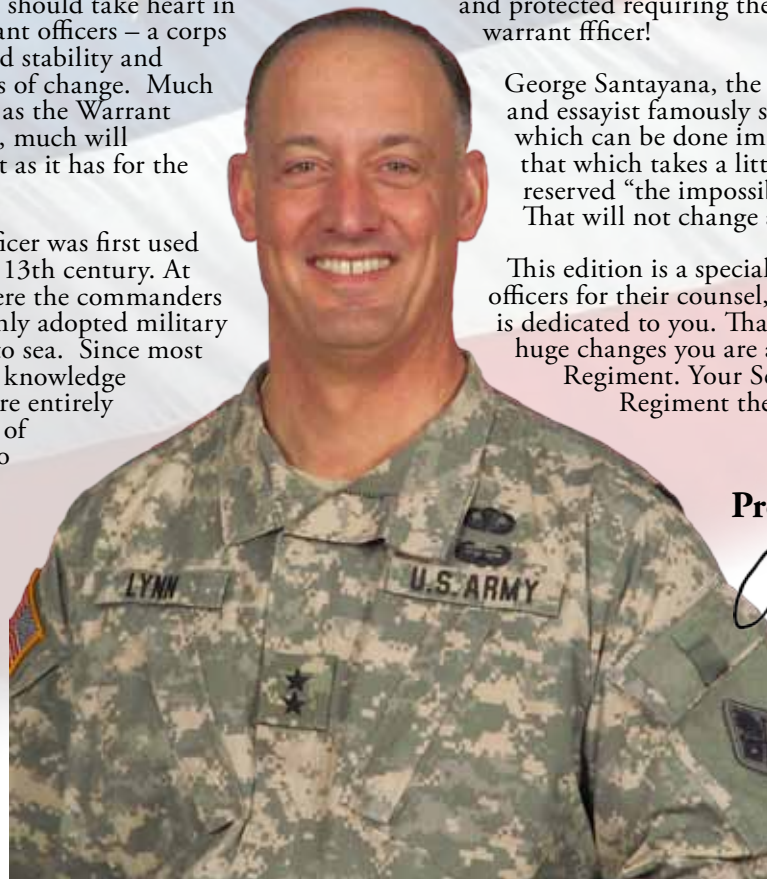
The rank of warrant officer was first used by English fleets in the 13th century. At that time, noblemen were the commanders of English ships, and only adopted military ranks when they went to sea. Since most of these officers had no knowledge of seamanship, they were entirely reliant on the expertise of the warrant officers who tended to the technical aspects of running the ship. Although our leaders are now very knowledgeable, the Signal Regiment continues to rely on warrant officers for their expertise on the technical aspects of our profession. The Warrant Officer Corps has never let us down.

Warrant officers are “systems-of-systems” experts. They have a firm grasp on joint and multinational operations, and know how to integrate Signal capabilities into complex operating environments. They are competent and confident warriors, innovative integrators of emerging technologies, dynamic teachers, and developers of specialized teams of Soldiers. Warrant officers are leaders with the extensive professional experience and the technical knowledge to serve as role models and mentors for junior officers and NCOs. That will not change as we implement the FAA.

I vividly remember the very first time a warrant officer coached me away from a bad decision. It helped me gain a new perspective and made me expect only the best from my warrant officers. The more senior I have become, the more heavily I have relied on the quality advice and technical expertise of our warrant officers. Every general officer, colonel, and sergeant major, to name a few, shares in that experience. That will not change as we implement the FAA. If anything, the future holds more advanced systems and technology that must be integrated, operated and protected requiring the skills of an expert—the warrant officer!

George Santayana, the Spanish American philosopher and essayist famously said, “The difficult is that which can be done immediately; the impossible is that which takes a little longer.” We have always reserved “the impossible” for our warrant officers. That will not change as we implement the FAA.

This edition is a special thanks to our warrant officers for their counsel, leadership, and service. It is dedicated to you. Thank you in advance for the huge changes you are about to make to the Signal Regiment. Your Service has made our Army and Regiment the best in the world!



Pro Patria Vigilans!